

**The Sub-angled Wave *Scopula nigropunctata* Hufn. (Lep.: Geometridae): A first for the Channel Islands**

On the night of 2/3 July 2003, the Rothamsted Insect Survey light-trap at Trinity, Jersey (site No. 547) recorded the first specimen of *Scopula nigropunctata* known to have occurred on any of the Channel Islands.

On the British mainland, this *Red Data Book* moth is confined as a breeding species to the extreme south-east, in the Folkestone Warren area of Kent. However, its occurrence as a migrant may be increasing, again with most specimens being recorded in the south-east and it has also been found along the south coast as far as Dorset. Therefore, it is not too surprising that this specimen has found its way from the continent to Jersey.

My thanks to Roger Long for drawing my attention to this record and to Alex Vautier for her long-standing hard work in operating the light-trap.— PHILIP J L GOULD, Co-ordinator, Light-trap Network, Rothamsted Insect Survey, Plant & Invertebrate Ecology Division, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2JQ (E-mail: phil.gould@bbsrc.ac.uk).

**A hitherto unrecorded larval food plant of the Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia* (Rottenburg) (Lep.: Nymphalidae)**

After perusing Abadjiev (2001. *An Atlas of the Distribution of the Butterflies in Bulgaria*. Pensoft.) I had not expected to see the Marsh Fritillary during my stay at Primorsko on the southern Black Sea coast in May 2004, there being no records of the species nearer than a hundred or so kilometres from the coast. In the event, though, this species proved to be common and widespread throughout the district. I was struck immediately by the apparent absence of any of the usual larval host plants where the butterflies were flying. There was, however, invariably present a quantity of a species of teasel *Dipsacus laciniatus* L. On 16 May, in an extensive colony near the village of Pismenovo I decided to search for ova on the teasel. Almost at once I found a batch and soon many more, and witnessed oviposition on many occasions. In the course of the next week I found eggs and saw females laying on *Dipsacus* in all localities where *aurinia* was present. In one instance I found five large egg batches on the underside of a single leaf of teasel. Teasels are biennial, and so I wondered if the butterflies would show a preference for laying on the smaller first year rosettes, but this turned out not to be the case, so that many larvae would have to wander after hibernation in search of pabulum. The adult insects in this area agreed very well in appearance with the subspecies *bulgarica* Fruehstorfer, as depicted by Lewington in Tolman (1997. *Collins Field Guide – Butterflies of Britain and Europe*. HarperCollins.) It would be interesting to know if a preference for *Dipsacus* as a larval food plant is general for, and possibly unique to, this race. According to Tolman (*op. cit.*) two species of *Dipsacus* have been recorded as larval host plants for the closely related *Euphydryas desfontainii* (Godart).— MICHAEL J. SKELTON, 42 Grosvenor Gardens, Bournemouth BH1 4HH.